IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Original)** A vehicle door outer handle system comprising: an operating handle (14) comprising a handle main body (22) made of a synthetic resin and a cover (23) made of a synthetic resin so as to cover the outer side of the handle main body (22), the operating handle (14) being disposed on an outer side of a vehicle door (11); a pair of electrodes (43); and a circuit board (44) on which is provided a detection circuit (45) for detecting a change in capacitance between the electrodes (43), the electrodes (43) and the circuit board (44) being housed within the operating handle (14); characterized in that the electrodes (43) are patterned on the circuit board (44).

2. **(Original)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 1 wherein, among opposite faces of the circuit board (44), a component (45a, 45b, 45c) of the detection circuit (45) is mounted on the face on the side opposite to the face where the electrodes (43) are patterned.

3. **(Original)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to either Claim 1 or 2, wherein, among opposite faces of the circuit board (44), the electrodes (43) are patterned on the face on the vehicle side.

4. **(Original)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 1, wherein a sensor unit (42) comprising the electrodes (43), the circuit board (44), and a covering portion (48) made of a synthetic resin and covering the electrodes (43) and the circuit board (44) is fixedly housed in a housing recess (41) formed in the handle main body (22) so as to open on the cover (23) side.

5. **(Original)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 4, wherein the electrodes (43) and the circuit board (44) are mounted on a holder (46), a majority of the

holder (46) being covered by the covering portion (48) so as to form a part of the sensor unit (42).

6. **(Original)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 5, wherein a ground plate (47) forming a part of the sensor unit (42) is mounted on the holder (46) so as to cover the electrodes (43) and is covered by the covering portion (48).

7. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to ~~either Claim 4 or 5~~ Claim 5, wherein a portion of the holder (46) projecting from the covering portion (48) is mounted on a mounting seat (63, 64) provided on the handle main body (22).

8. **(New)** The vehicle door outer handle system according to Claim 4, wherein the electrodes (43) and the circuit board (44) are mounted on a holder (46), and a portion of the holder (46) projects from the covering portion (48) and is mounted on the mounting seat (63, 64) provided on the handle main body (22).